

Ryne was a mentor and an inspiration to his teammates. Many friends sought to follow his example: succeeding in school and working diligently on the field all while keeping a smile on his face. During Ryne's funeral, Rev. Gerald Whitaker asked the mourners to imagine that Ryne had made a game-saving tackle to end a big game against their rival high school. The crowd responded with a thunderous ovation, a fitting way to honor Ryne.

Finally, I would like express my sympathy to Ryne's family. I hope that they will be comforted by their many positive memories and by the outpouring of support from the Montclair community. His family decided to donate Ryne's organs, yet another way that Ryne has touched the lives of others. I am proud to honor him today.●

HONORING NEWLAND NURSERY AND LANDSCAPING

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, as we approach the holiday season, I wish to recognize a small business from my home State of Maine that has made its mark by its commitment to giving back to the local community. NewLand Nursery and Landscaping of Ellsworth has been providing Hancock County with quality landscaping services and floral arrangements for almost two decades, while simultaneously maintaining its status as an involved member of the greater Ellsworth area.

Beginning its landscape design operations in 1985 with a mere \$600, a pickup truck, and some tools, NewLand has continually expanded its services to become a well-known name for its gorgeous flowers, versatile garden products, and impressive landscaping business. A reputable source for gardening knowledge, customers in Downeast Maine have relied on NewLand for creative ways to enrich their home gardens or fashion a welcoming landscape at their business.

NewLand has designed some of Maine's most recognizable landscapes, from Bangor to Calais. Many locals and tourists alike will recognize NewLand's exquisite work at the Jordan Pond House in Acadia National Park, where the firm designed the tea garden, plantings, and other aspects. Additionally, NewLand has developed landscapes at the Mansfield baseball field in Bangor, the University of Maine's Hutchison Center in Belfast, and St. John's Church in Bangor.

NewLand has received several awards over the course of its history for the inventiveness and attractiveness of its work. It won the People's Choice Award five times at the Bangor Garden Show, from 1991 to 1994 and again in 1999. And in 2006, NewLand was recognized by Governor Baldacci, the Maine Commission for Community Service, and the Maine Volunteer Connection with the Small Business Volunteerism Award, commending the company for its culture of encouraging volunteering

among its employees and its generosity in assisting others throughout Hancock County. NewLand Nursery and Landscaping is a member of numerous community and statewide organizations, including the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce and the Maine State Florists' and Growers' Association.

Steve Elliot, the owner of NewLand, has certainly led by example when it comes to community service. Mr. Elliot most recently served as president of the Rotary Club of Ellsworth and was actively involved in organizing engaging Rotary meetings and service events. In fact, this coming Saturday, Mr. Elliot will join his fellow Rotarians for the third annual Gifting Experience. Members of the local club will take 23 8- and 9-year-olds shopping in downtown Ellsworth to buy gifts for their family members. They will then go to Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, where the children will wrap presents. At the conclusion of the day, Mr. Elliot dressed as Santa Claus will give each participant a gift.

No stranger to community involvement, Mr. Elliot also hosts a free annual fall children's festival at NewLand, where kids can enjoy hayrides and participate in bowling with pumpkins, as well as an Easter Egg Hunt each spring. He has additionally donated his time as a coach for the Blue Hill Athletic Department. Several years ago, NewLand also hosted the unveiling of the "Fishing for Friends" effort, a fundraiser for Faith in Action Community Connection, a volunteer group that assists the disabled and elderly in Hancock County.

The holiday season is a time to appreciate what we have and discover ways we can give to others. Steve Elliot and the employees at NewLand have truly taken this spirit to heart. I applaud Mr. Elliot and everyone at NewLand Nursery and Landscaping for their generous and dedicated work, and I wish them well in all of their future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO URSULA VILLERE

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Mrs. Ursula Villere on her 90th birthday which occurred November 30, 2008.

Mrs. Villere has been a Louisianan all her life, born in New Orleans and residing in Metairie since 1955. She graduated from Dominican High School and then Dominican College, where she was a member of the KKI Sorority. Taking a further interest in education, she proceeded to teach school both in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish until retiring in 1980. She is a loyal parishioner of St. Angela Merci Church and a loving mother and grandmother. She has 7 wonderful children who have given her 14 fantastic grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

I am proud to call Mrs. Villere a fellow Louisianan and would like to extend my best wishes to her and her

family on the occasion of her 90th birthday.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 333(a)(2) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-229), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following voting members to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino: Mrs. Rosa J. Correa of Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Dr. Aida Levitan of Key Biscayne, Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 125(c)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker announces the November 14, 2008, joint appointment by the Speaker and the Majority leader of the Senate and appointment by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Oversight Panel:

Joint appointment: Mr. Damon Silvers of Maryland; and, Speaker's appointment: Mr. Richard H. Neiman of New York.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) announced that he had signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 6859. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1501 South Slappey Boulevard in Albany, Georgia, as the "Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. Post Office Building".

At 6:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7311. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), the Minority Leader reappoints the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2009: Mr. Larry Wortzel of Williamsburg, Virginia.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: